

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1684
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
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USMISSION USNATO
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 02198

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, UNGA, UK
SUBJECT: UNSSOD: TEXT OF UK PROPOSAL ON PEACEKEEPING
AND PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

1. AT BARTON GROUP MEETING, MAY 31, UK REP (ASHE)
ANNOUNCED THAT THE UK DEL WAS INTERESTED IN TABLING,
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, THEIR MEMORANDUM ON STRENGTHENING
THE SECURITY ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN PEACEKEEPING
AND THE PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES (TEXT CONTAINED
PARA 4 BELOW) AS AN SSOD WORKING PAPER. ASHE ALSO ASKED
FOR BARTON GROUP VIEWS ON THE PAPER AND WHETHER ANY
WESTERN DELS WERE INTERESTED IN CO-SPONSORING THE PAPER.

2. THE UK PROPOSAL SUGGESTS THE NEED FOR THE UN TO
CONDUCT A STUDY, IN THREE PARTS COVERING THE SUBJECTS OF
CRISIS ANTICIPATION, PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES,
AND PEACEKEEPING. AFTER LISTENING TO THE RESERVATIONS
EXPRESSED BY A NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS, PARTICULARLY IN
REGARD TO THE SECTION ON PEACEKEEPING, ASHE EMPHASIZED
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THAT THE UK INTENDED THEIR PROPOSAL TO BE TAKEN TO BE A
STUDY, NOT A FIRM COMMITMENT TO ANY SORT OF PEACEKEEPING
SYSTEM. HE ADDED THAT, AT MOST, THE INTENDED OUTCOME OF
THE UK PROPOSAL WOULD BE THAT THE STUDY WOULD INCLUDE
RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH WOULD THEN HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED
BY ALL DELEGATIONS.

3. AT A WORKING GROUP MEETING ON PROGRAM OF ACTION FOLLOWING THE BARTON GROUP MEETING, MEMBERS OF THE ITALIAN DEL (LEI) INDICATED ITALIAN INTEREST IN CO-SPONSORING THE UK PAPER, BUT ADDED THAT NO DEFINITIVE RESPONSE HAD AS YET BEEN RECEIVED FROM ROME.

4. TEXT OF UK MEMORANDUM ON PEACEKEEPING AND PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES. BEGIN TEXT: STRENGTHENING OF THE SECURITY ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN PEACEKEEPING AND THE PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES: MEMORANDUM BY THE UNITED KINGDOM: 1. WHEN THE UNITED NATIONS WAS ESTABLISHED 32 YEARS AGO, THE MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY WAS ITS PRIMARY PURPOSE. ALTHOUGH THE UNITED NATIONS HAS MADE MUCH PROGRESS IN THE FACE OF NEW DEMANDS, THESE ACHIEVEMENTS CANNOT MASK THE FACT THAT THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND SECURITY IS A FUNCTION OF THE ORGANISATION WHICH IT HAS TRAGICALLY FAILED TO FULFIL. PARTIES TO A DISPUTE HAVE NOT OBSERVED THEIR OBLIGATION TO SETTLE DISPUTES BY PEACEFUL MEANS, NOR HAVE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS USED THEIR RIGHTS UNDER THE CHARTER TO BRING DISPUTES TO THE NOTICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS WITH A VIEW TO PREVENTING BREACHES OF THE PEACE OR PROMOTING PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. 2. THE PURSUIT OF GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT OVER MANY YEARS HAS BROUGHT WITH IT A REALISATION THAT A NECESSARY ACCOMPANIMENT TO DISARMAMENT MUST BE A CONFIDENTIAL

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STRENGTHENING OF INSTITUTIONS FOR MAINTAINING PEACE AND SETTLING INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES. THE UK BELIEVES THAT A STRENGTHENING OF THE UNITED NATIONS ROLE IN THE PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES AND PEACEKEEPING WILL NOT ONLY CONTRIBUTE MATERIALLY TO THE ENHANCEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY BUT WILL BE AN ENCOURAGEMENT TO GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT. ONLY WHEN THERE IS A VIABLE ALTERNATIVE TO THE SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES BY FORCE, AND ONLY WHEN THERE IS A UNITED NATIONS CAPACITY TO DENY THE SEEKING OF NATIONAL ADVANTAGE BY FORCE, WILL THERE BE A CLIMATE OF CONFIDENCE WHICH MIGHT ENCOURAGE STATES TO REDUCE OR ELIMINATE THEIR ARMAMENTS, WHICH IS THE COMMON AIM. THE SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBER STATES TO REVIEW THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES AND PEACEKEEPING, AND TO GIVE THOUGHT TO WAYS OF STRENGTHENING THE ORGANISATION'S ROLE IN THE FUTURE. 3. TO THIS END, THE UK BELIEVES THAT A BROADLY RANGING STUDY WOULD SERVE TO FOCUS THE ATTENTION OF STATES ON THE NATURE OF EXISTING FACILITIES AND MECHANISMS IN THE UN SYSTEM FOR THE PROMOTION OF PEACE, AND POSSIBLE WAYS IN WHICH THE UN CAPACITY MIGHT BE STRENGTHENED AND MEMBER

STATES ENCOURAGED AND ASSISTED TO FULFIL THEIR CHARTER OBLIGATIONS. WE CONSIDER THAT SUCH A STUDY MIGHT BE UNDERTAKEN IN THREE PARTS, COVERING THE RELATED SUBJECTS OF CRISIS ANTICIPATION, PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES AND PEACEKEEPING.

4. A VITAL ISSUE, WHICH HAS BEEN INSUFFICIENTLY CONSIDERED BY THE UNITED NATIONS, IS THE QUESTION OF CRISIS ANTICIPATION OR, IN THE WORDS OF THE CHARTER, "PREVENTION ... OF THREATS TO THE PEACE". MUCH PRACTICAL WORK IS ALREADY UNDER WAY IN THE UN SYSTEM ON WAYS OF

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ERADICATING THE UNDERLYING CAUSES OF CONFLICT, WHICH CAN ARISE FROM ECONOMIC, SOCIAL OR POLITICAL CAUSES OR FROM PERSISTENT VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS. THERE IS STILL, " HOWEVER, A NEED FOR ACTION BY THOSE ORGANS OF THE UNITED NATIONS WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR PEACE AND SECURITY, PRIMARILY THE SECURITY COUNCIL, TO CONSIDER WAYS IN WHICH IT MIGHT ACT TO ANTICIPATE THREATS TO THE PEACE AND PROMOTE PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS BEFORE SUCH ISSUES ATTAIN THE NATURE OF A DISPUTE OR CONFLICT. TWO FACTORS CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE AVOIDANCE OR PREVENTION OF CRISES: INFORMATION ABOUT THE FACTS AND CONSULTATION ABOUT THE RESPONSE. THE STUDY MIGHT USEFULLY CONSIDER THE WAYS IN WHICH FACTS ABOUT AN INCIPIENT DISPUTE CAN BE COLLECTED AND PRESENTED TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AND ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF CONSULTATION WHICH ORGANS OF THE UNITED NATIONS OR THE SECRETARY-GENERAL MIGHT THEN PURSUE WITH A VIEW TO RECOMMENDING

METHODS OF PROMOTING A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.

5. THE SECOND MAJOR ITEM FOR STUDY WOULD BE PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES. THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE CHARTER ON MEMBER STATES ARE CLEAR IN REGARD TO THE NEED TO CONFIDENTIAL

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SETTLE DISPUTES BY PEACEFUL MEANS AND TO REFRAIN FROM THE THREAT OR USE OF FORCE; BUT, IN SPITE OF THESE OBLIGATIONS AND THE NUMEROUS MECHANISMS AVAILABLE TO STATES TO FACILITATE THE PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES, DISPUTES AND ARMED CONFLICTS CONTINUE TO DEVASTATE LIVES AND PROPERTY. WITH A VIEW TO ASSISTING STATES AND PROMOTING THE EVOLUTION OF A SYSTEMATICAL MACHINERY FOR THE PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES BETWEEN NATIONS, THE UK BELIEVES THAT THE STUDY SHOULD ENUMERATE THE METHODS OF PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES WHICH ARE AVAILABLE (INCLUDING THOSE LISTED IN ARTICLE 33 OF THE CHARTER), IDENTIFY EXISTING MECHANISMS DESIGNED TO FACILITATE THE USE OF THESE VARIOUS METHODS, AND ANALYSE THE REASONS WHY THESE MECHANISMS HAVE BEEN RARELY USED. THE STUDY SHOULD ALSO DRAW ATTENTION TO CASES OF INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT WHERE THE UNITED NATIONS HAS NOT BEEN INVOLVED, AND SEEK TO IDENTIFY FACTORS WHICH MAY HAVE INHIBITED SUCH INVOLVEMENT.

6. THE THIRD ISSUE CONCERNS PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS, WHETHER OF AN OBSERVER OR OPERATIONAL NATURE. THE EXIST-

ING SYSTEM OF PEACEKEEPING HAS EVOLVED AS A RESPONSE TO THE NEEDS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND WITH THE CONSENT OF STATES INVOLVED. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND HIS STAFF HAVE PERFORMED REMARKABLE FEATS IN ASSEMBLING PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS OR FORCES AT SHORT NOTICE WHEN CALLED UPON TO DO SO, BUT SUCH IMPROVISATION IS NOT SATISFACTORY AS A LONG TERM MEANS OF FULFILLING THIS ESSENTIAL FUNCTION OF THE ORGANISATION. THE STUDY MIGHT THEREFORE CONSIDER MEASURES WHICH COULD BE TAKEN TO FACILITATE THE ABILITY OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO MOUNT EFFECTIVE PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS AT SHORT NOTICE, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO PRIOR ACTION WHICH MIGHT BE TAKEN BY GOVERNMENTS.

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7. THE STUDY MIGHT THUS CONSIDER THE DESIRABILITY AND NATURE OF PRIOR ASSURANCES ABOUT THE PROVISION OF NATIONAL CONTINGENTS AND SUPPORTING SERVICES. IT MIGHT ALSO EXAMINE THE EXPERIENCE OF PREVIOUS OPERATIONS AND NATIONAL CONTINGENTS INVOLVED THEREIN WITH A VIEW TO IDENTIFYING AREAS

OF THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL TRAINING WHICH WOULD BENEFIT
FUTURE CONTINGENTS, AND RECOMMENDING METHODS BY WHICH SUCH
TRAINING MIGHT BE MADE WIDELY AVAILABLE TO MEMBER STATES.

8. IN PARTICULAR, THE STUDY MIGHT EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITY
OF PREPARING OR SPONSORING A HANDBOOK ON THE TECHNIQUES
AND OPERATIONAL ASPECTS OF UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS,
AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MULTINATIONAL TRAINING TEAMS
UNDER UN AUSPICES COMPOSED FOR FORMER OR SERVING MEMBERS
OF PEACEKEEPING FORCES. THE STUDY MIGHT ALSO USEFULLY
REVIEW DEVELOPMENTS IN MODERN TECHNOLOGY WHICH COULD
ENHANCE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS, WITH
PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO METHODS OF SURVEILLANCE, AND MAKE
RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO THEIR USE.

9. IT IS THE HOPE OF THE UK THAT A STUDY ON THESE LINES
WOULD SERVE TO FOCUS THE ATTENTION OF MEMBER STATES ON THE
POTENTIAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE MATTER OF PEACEFUL
SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES AND PEACEKEEPING, PROVIDE A BASIS
FROM WHICH STATES COULD SEEK TO MAKE PROGRESS TOWARDS
INVIGORATING THE CAPACITY OF THE ORGANISATION TO FORE-
STALL A CLIMATE OF INTERNATIONAL CONFIDENCE CONDUCTIVE TO
DISARMAMENT. END TEXT. YOUNG

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